



NEWS RELEASE

Matthew D. Orwig
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 16, 2006

Contact: Davilyn Brackin
Public Information Officer
(409) 839-2538 office
(409) 553-9881 cell

HARDIN COUNTY MANHUNT SUBJECT PLEADS TO FEDERAL FIREARMS CHARGES

(Beaumont, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that a 45-year-old Missouri man has pleaded guilty to federal firearms charges in the Eastern District of Texas. **BILLY GENE MCGEE** admitted to possession of an unregistered firearm and receipt of an illegally manufactured firearm before United States District Judge Marcia Crone today.

According to information presented in court, on March 25, 2005, a Silsbee Police Officer attempted to make a routine traffic stop in Silsbee on a vehicle with Missouri license plates. Instead of pulling over, the driver of the vehicle accelerated and fled. McGee fired a short-barrel shotgun from the vehicle's sunroof as the officer gave pursuit. McGee and the driver of the vehicle abandoned the car in Hardin County and fled into a heavily wooded area. Federal, state, and local law enforcement officers participated in a massive manhunt for the men. McGee was eventually arrested in Paducah, Kentucky on April 5, 2005 and extradited to Texas. He was indicted on federal firearms charges on December 14, 2005.

McGee faces up to ten years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.00 at sentencing. A sentencing date has not been set.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

Firearms, and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Marshals Service, the Silsbee Police Department, the Hardin County Sheriff's Office, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Lumberton Police Department, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Texas Rangers, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Department of Corrections, the Southeast Texas Air Rescue, the Southeast Texas Search and Rescue, the Southeast Missouri Narcotics Task Force and the Paducah, Kentucky Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Randall Fluke.

###